

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus for controlling use of [[a]] content under a predetermined condition, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring first identification information ~~of~~ for a first client,
the first client being an another apparatus or user requesting use of [[a]] the content;

registration means for registering the first identification information acquired from
the first client, and for changing the registered first identification information ~~other-~~
~~apparatus or the user;~~ and

change limitation means for preventing the registration means from further
changing the first identification information in accordance with a limitation;

limitation modifying means for modifying the limitation; and

usage control means for, in response to the request for use of the content issued
by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user,~~ determining whether the use of the
content is allowed on the basis of whether the first identification information ~~of the other-~~
~~apparatus or the user~~ is already currently registered.

2. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the registration means performs registration in response to a request issued by
the first client ~~another apparatus or the user.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the registration means performs new registration only when ~~the~~ a current

number of registrations is smaller than a predetermined maximum allowable number of registrations.

4. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the registration means stores, together with the first identification information of ~~another apparatus or user~~, an invalidation flag for controlling provision of a service to a the first client ~~whose identification information is already registered~~; and

the usage control means limits the use of the content by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~, if the invalidation flag associated with the ~~other apparatus or the user~~ first client is set.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the limitation is a maximum ~~change limitation means limits, to a predetermined value~~, the number of times ~~already registered~~ identification information is can be replaced with identification information of another apparatus or user.

7. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the limitation is a minimum amount of time that must expire between replacing ~~change limitation means limits the frequency at which already registered~~ identification information is ~~replaced with identification information of another apparatus or user~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein when the already registered first identification information for the first client is replaced with second identification information for a second client ~~of another~~

~~apparatus or user~~, the change limitation means requests the second client ~~other-
apparatus or the user~~ to perform a particular operation.

9. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim
[[5]] 1, wherein when ~~already the~~ registered first identification information is replaced
with second identification information for a second client, the change limitation means
requests submission of change permission information from the second client ~~another-
apparatus or a manager~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim
[[5]] 6, wherein the change limitation means charges fees for changing the maximum
number of times identification information can be replaced ~~depending on the maximum-
allowable number of times already registered identification information is changed~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim
[[5]] 1, wherein when the limitation is modified ~~on registration is changed~~, the change
limitation means requests submission of change permission information from a different
~~another~~ apparatus or a ~~particular~~ manager.

12. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method for controlling use of
[[a]] content under a predetermined condition, comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

acquiring first identification information ~~of~~ for a first client, the first client being an
~~another~~ apparatus or user requesting use of [[a]] the content;

registering the first identification information acquired from the first client ~~other-
apparatus or the user~~; and

changing the registered first identification information;

preventing further changes to the registered first identification information in

accordance with a limitation;

modifying the limitation; and

in response to the request for use of the content issued by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~, determining whether the use of the content is allowed on the basis of whether the first identification information ~~of the other apparatus or the user~~ is already currently registered.

13. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 12, wherein ~~in the registration step~~, registration is performed in response to a request issued by the first client ~~another apparatus or user~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 12, wherein ~~in the registration step~~, new registration is performed only when ~~the~~ a current number of registrations is smaller than a predetermined maximum allowable number of registrations.

15. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 12, wherein ~~in the registration step~~, an invalidation flag for controlling provision of a service to a the first client ~~whose identification information is already registered~~ is stored together with the first identification information ~~of another apparatus or user~~; and

~~in the usage limiting step~~, the use of the content by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~ is limited, if the invalidation flag associated with the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~ is set.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim
[[16]] 12, wherein ~~in the step of limiting changing of registered information~~, the limitation

is a maximum number of times ~~already registered~~ identification information is can be replaced ~~with identification information of another apparatus or user is limited to a~~ predetermined value.

18. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 12, wherein ~~in the step of limiting changing of registered information~~, the limitation is a minimum amount of time that must expire between replacing frequency at which ~~already registered~~ identification information ~~with identification information of another apparatus or user is limited~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 12, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the~~ ~~step of~~, when the already registered first identification information for the first client is replaced with second identification information for a second client, the second client is requested ~~of another apparatus or user, requesting the other apparatus or the user to~~ perform a particular operation.

20. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 12, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the~~ ~~step of~~, when the already registered first identification information is replaced with second identification information for a second client, ~~requesting~~ submission of change permission information is requested from the second client ~~another apparatus or a~~ manager.

21. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 17, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the~~ ~~step of~~ further comprising charging fees for changing the maximum number of times

identification information can be replaced ~~depending on the maximum allowable number of times already registered identification information is changed.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 16, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the step of,~~ when the limitation is modified ~~on registration is changed~~, requesting submission of change permission information is requested ~~from another~~ a different apparatus or a particular manager.

23. (Currently Amended) A medium containing processor readable instructions ~~computer program described in a computer-readable format~~, for causing a ~~computer-system~~ an information processor to execute a process of controlling use of ~~[[a]]~~ content under a predetermined condition, the process comprising the steps of:

acquiring first identification information ~~of~~ for a first client, the first client being an ~~another~~ apparatus or user requesting use of ~~[[a]]~~ the content;

registering the first identification information acquired from the first client ~~other-~~ ~~apparatus or the user~~; and

changing the registered first identification information;

preventing further changes to the registered first identification information in accordance with a limitation;

modifying the limitation; and

in response to the request for use of the content issued by the first client ~~other-~~ ~~apparatus or the user~~, determining whether the use of the content is allowed on the basis of whether the first identification information ~~of the other apparatus or the user~~ is ~~already~~ currently registered.